

ANNEX D
State Emergency Function # 4a
Wildfire Suppression

LEAD AGENCY: Department of Higher Education, Colorado State University, **Colorado State Forest Service**

SUPPORTING AGENCIES: Governor's Office; Office of Emergency Management; Corrections; Military Affairs; Transportation; Law; Red Cross; Salvation Army

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this SEF is to provide course of action for the response to wildfires within the state that are beyond the capabilities of local and county resources to suppress and extinguish.

II. SCOPE

The scope of this SEF is to describe the general response of the Colorado State Forest Service and other supporting agencies in response to an emergency wildfire incident in Colorado.

III. SITUATION

Wildfires occur as unscheduled emergency events in wildland fuels (prairie or forest vegetation) and also in fuels that include a combination of wildland and man introduced fuels (houses and improvements). Wildfires involve or threaten human life, residential housing, other improvements, and natural resources. Due to natural fuels build-up and increased population in wildland urban interface areas, wildfires that exceed the control efforts of local and county resources are becoming more common and more complex. Wildland firefighting in Colorado is interagency in nature involving state, county, local, federal, and tribal partners. Colorado State Forest Service is an integral partner providing the organizational bridge between federal agencies and county/local partners.

IV. PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS

1. Wildfires, which exceed the capabilities of local and county resources, will occur.
2. Wildfires will threaten lives, property, and natural resources.
3. Successful suppression and extinguishment of catastrophic wildfires will require organized interagency cooperation at all levels of government.

V. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS (also see flow chart)

1. Ordering and tracking of resources is accomplished through six (6) Interagency Dispatch Centers and one (1) Interagency Regional Coordination Center. Agreements are in place that provide access to resources throughout the nation.

2. **The CSFS State Office Fire Duty Officer:** Receives call from District Forester about Fire Incident, Fire Information, Fire Response or other appropriate fire information that relates to potential for district fire response.
3. Provides for notification of Fire Division, Area Forester, District (s) and/ State Forester or his designee of all matters that pertain to potential fire incidents and information pertaining to all fire related activities, as appropriate.
4. Provides for notification of Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and Office of the Governor of all information concerning the reported incident on an as needed basis or as directed by the Fire Division or State Forester.
5. Coordinates with Federal, State, Local Government Agencies and Dispatch Centers including Rocky Mountain Coordination Center on all appropriate issues and information related to fire restrictions or closures as situation warrants.
6. Takes requests for Single Engine Air Tanker (SEAT) pre-positioning and relay to SEAT Coordinator. Pursues requests and brings to closure any issue that pertains to pre-positioning or safety issues concerning SEAT.
7. Advises state forester of CSFS personnel assigned to incidents by instate or out of state assignments. Tracks the number of and the potential need of additional CSFS personnel being assigned to incidents on a scheduled basis or as requested by state Forester, for response and or coverage needs statewide.
8. Provides for participation on Rocky Mountain Area Multi-agency Coordination Group (MAC) to set suppression priorities, designate the use of potential suppression resources, and coordinate and represent in the absence of other local governments their suppression resources.
9. Accesses the need for support to area, district, state office, and Area Dispatch centers during suppression efforts.
10. Keeps all CSFS Area's, Districts, Divisions, and projects informed of activities, situations, and the need for support or assistance on any incident as needed.
11. Accomplishes other duties as assigned by State Forester.